

U.S.S.N.: 10/711,504

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(LC 0170 PUS)

Amendment To The Drawings:

Attached are two (2) Replacement Sheets of drawings and two (2) Annotated Sheets of drawings, including Figures 1, 3, 4A, 4B, and 5. The replacement sheets replace the original sheets including Figures 1, 3, 4A, 4B, and 5. Previously omitted reference number 14 has been added to Figures 3, 4A, 4B, and 5.

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REMARKS

In the Official Action, the drawings and specification were objected to because of various informalities. In response, Applicants amended the specification and drawings to correct the informalities.

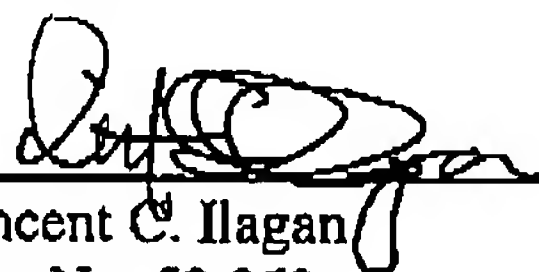
Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. With this Amendment, Claim 5 has been clarified to recite the invention as Applicants had originally intended and to overcome this rejection.

As to the merits, allowability of Claims 2-15 and 18-20 is noted and appreciated. By this Amendment, Applicants adopted the Examiner's suggestion in order to expedite allowance of the application to issue as a patent. In particular, Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 2. Independent Claim 17 now includes the allowable subject matter recited in Claim 18. New independent Claim 21 includes the subject matter of Claim 1 and allowable Claim 6. New Claims 22 and 23 depend from Claim 21 and respectively include the subject matter of allowable claims 7 and 12.

Claims 1, 16, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by the Japanese reference (Publication No. JP10-138858). However, with this Amendment, these rejections have been rendered moot.

In view of the foregoing, all of the claims remaining in the case, namely claims 1, 3-15, 17, and 19-23, are in proper form and patentably distinguish from the prior art. Accordingly, allowance of the claims and passage of the application to issuance are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
ARTZ & ARTZ, P.C.

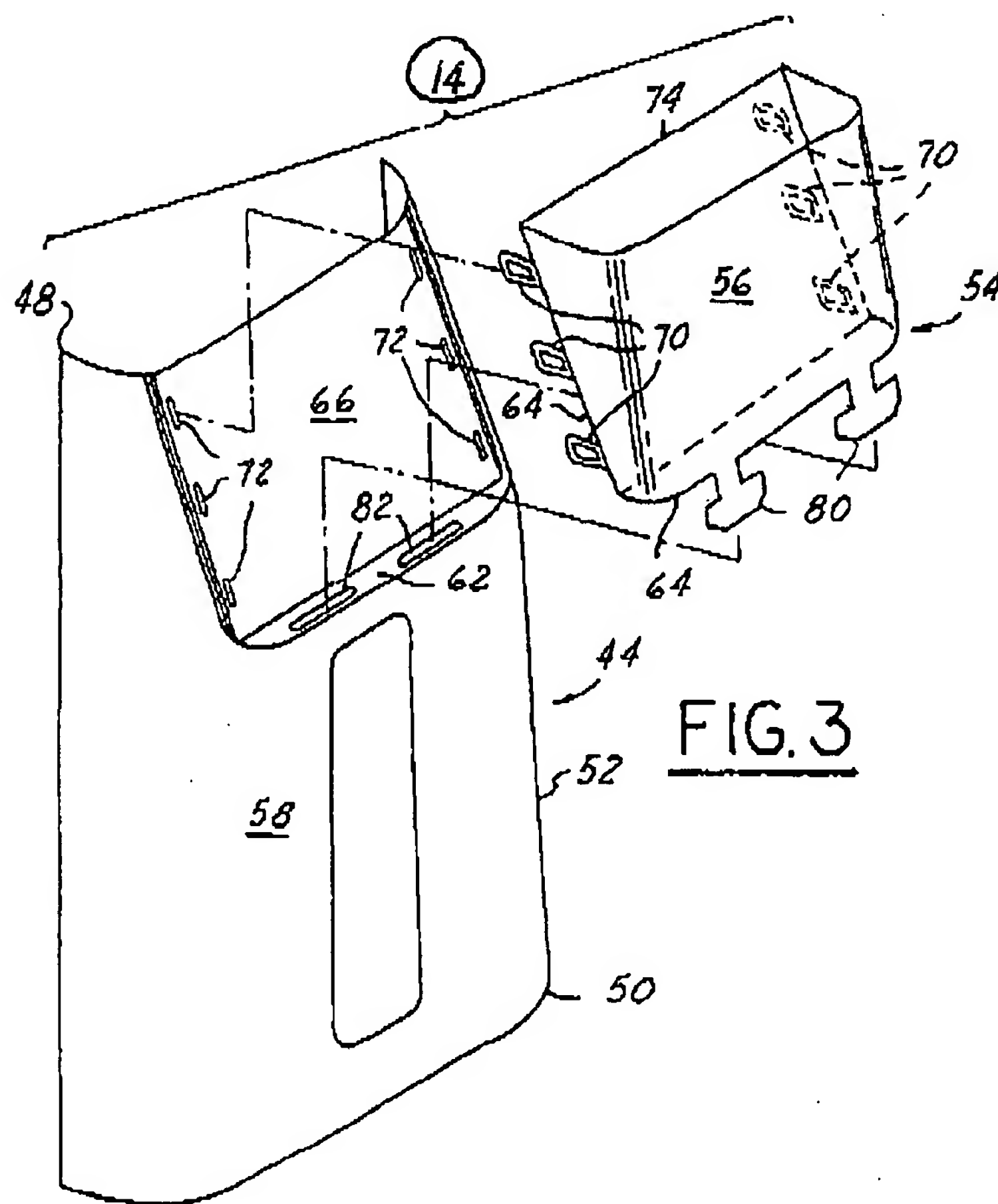
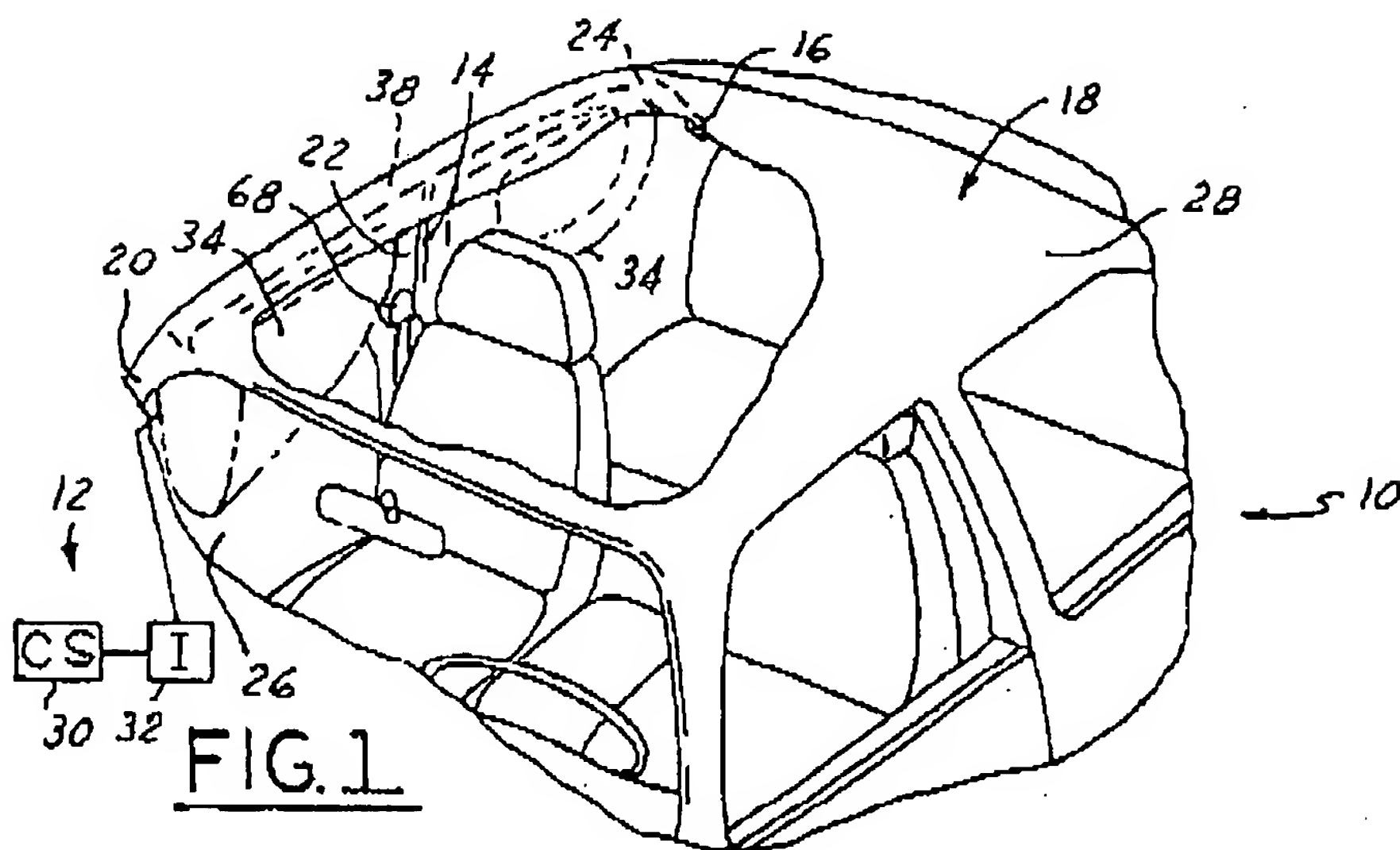


Vincent C. Ilagan
Reg. No. 53,053
28333 Telegraph Road, Ste. 250
Southfield, MI 48034

Attorney for Applicant(s)

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ANNOTATED SHEET



ANNOTATED SHEET

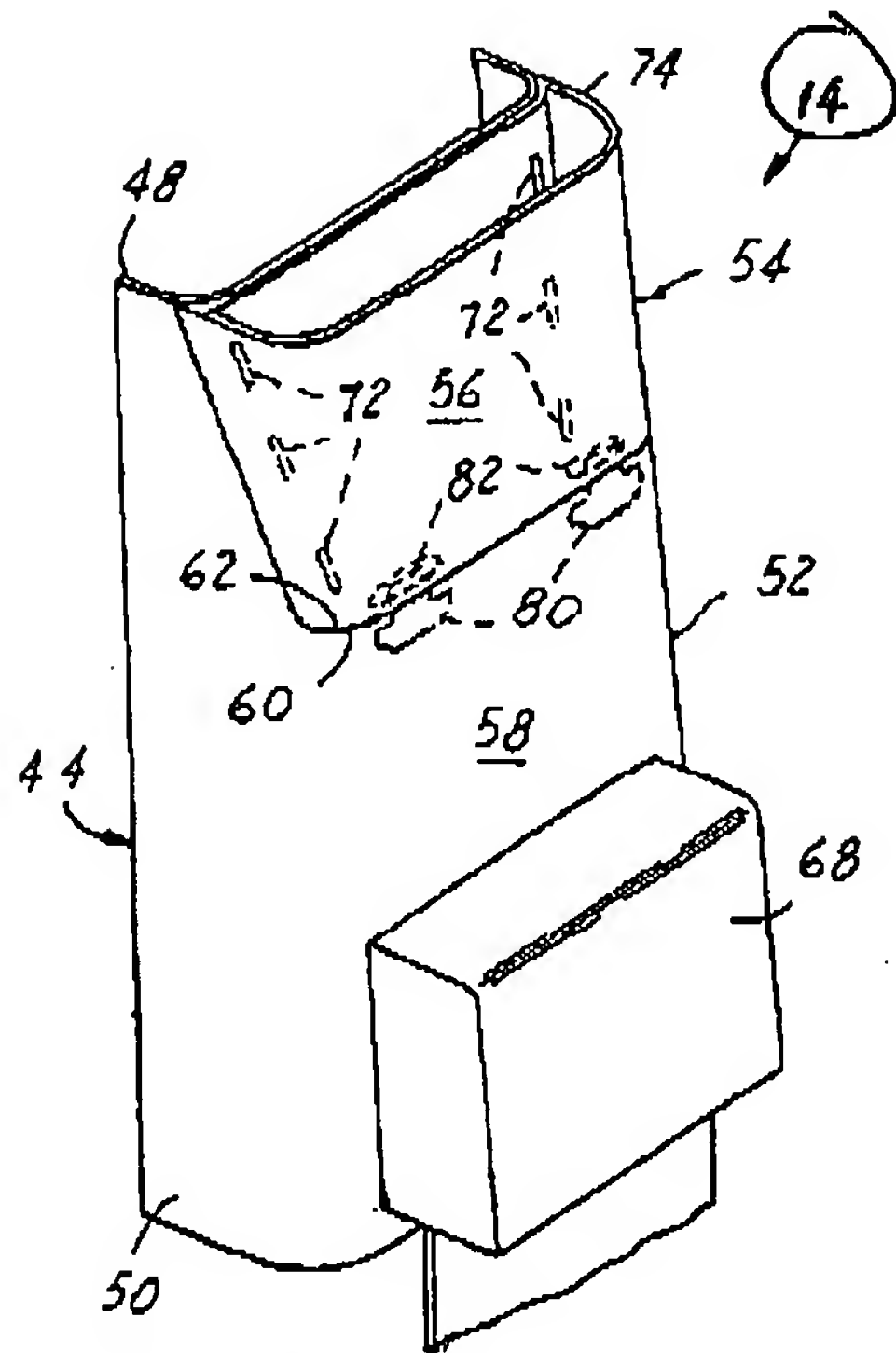


FIG. 4A

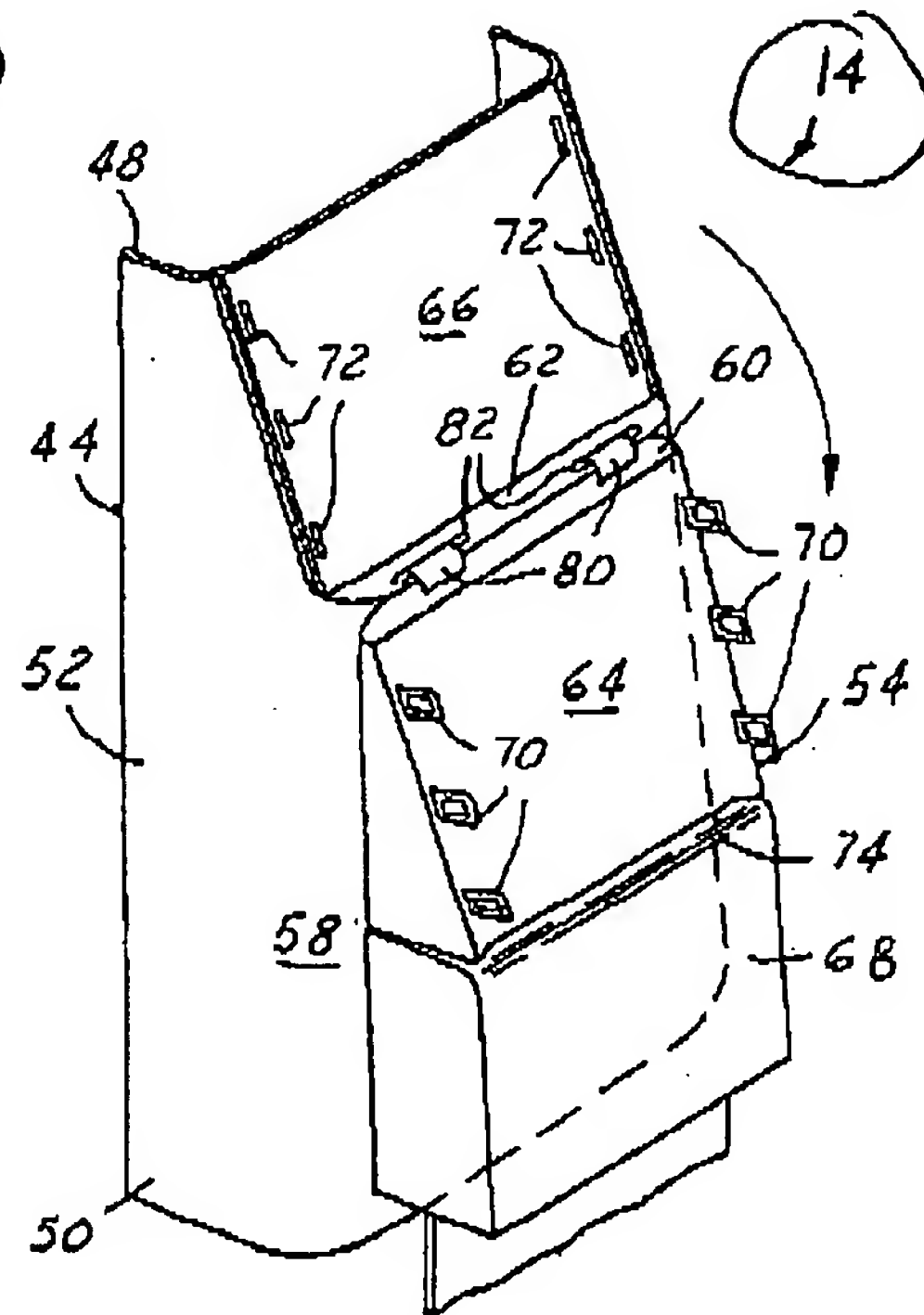


FIG.4B

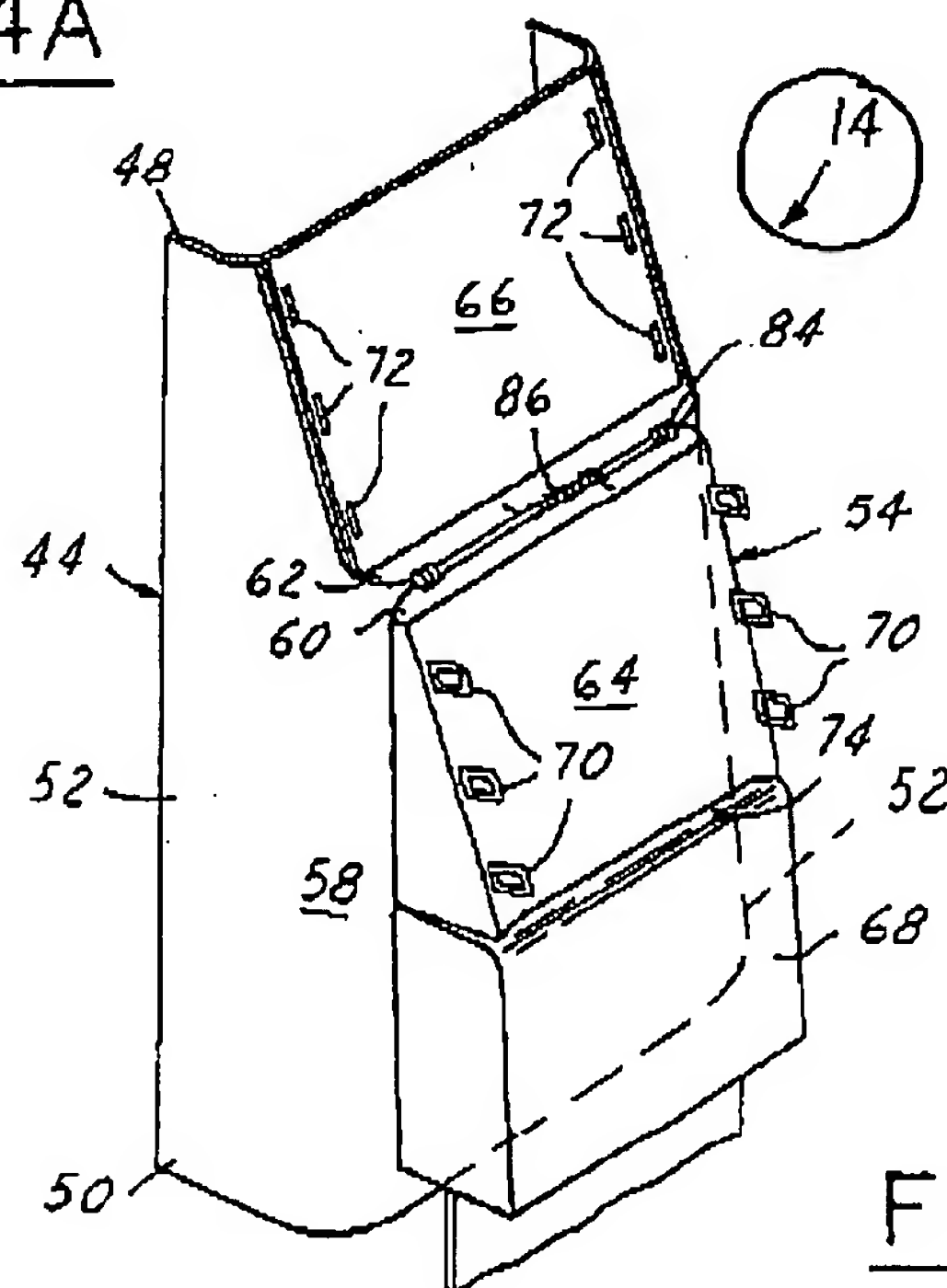


FIG. 5